

Town of Strathmore Curbside Organics Program

Starting in June, curbside organics collection will be provided in Strathmore, allowing residents to put all food scraps and yard waste into their green cart to be composted. Green carts will be provided to all single family homes in Strathmore. This program will decrease the amount of waste ending up in the landfill, and produce high quality compost which can be used to improve soil quality.

Updated 2018.05.08

Q When does the new program start?

Green carts will be delivered starting at the end of May. Collection will start the week of June 4th, 2018.

Q Why are we getting a green cart before a blue cart for recycling?

The Town of Strathmore already has a successful depot style recycling program. The recyclables collected at the depot are high quality, and are of higher value than what is typically collected in a curbside recycling program. The Town is introducing a curbside organics collection program because it is anticipated to decrease waste to landfill by 40%, and organics can be locally processed into high quality compost.

Q What goes in my green cart?

- All food, yard waste, pet waste and pet litter is accepted in the green cart.
- Extra yard waste can be put in paper yard waste bags and it will get collected too. Please ensure your green cart is full first.

A full list of acceptable items for your green cart will be provided when the carts are delivered.



Accepted

all food items, plants, flowers, yard waste, grass clippings, tree clippings, pet waste, paper towel, tissues, napkins, soiled and non-soiled paper plates, compostable cutlery, soiled pizza boxes, waxed paper and cardboard, newspaper, tea bags, popsicle and stir sticks, human and pet hair and nail clippings.



Not Accepted

Plastic bags, coffee cups, polystyrene products, paper, glass, plastic, non-compostable bags, clothing, metal, chip bags, food wrappers, elastic bands, rubber, electronics, fireplace ashes, white goods and wood. Items not listed in the acceptable section are not permitted in your green cart.

Q Can I put McDonald's, Starbucks, Tim Horton's coffee cups in my green cart?

No, the plastic lining on these cups keeps them from breaking down into compost. The cardboard sleeves can be composted.

Q Can I use compostable plastic bags to dispose of my food scraps?

Yes, compostable bags with the following logos are accepted by the program. Any other plastic bags, including bags labelled 'biodegradable' are not accepted.



You can also use paper bags in your green cart. Large sized paper bags are ideal for collecting leaf and yard waste.

Q Why should we compost our food scraps and yard waste?

Putting food scraps in your green cart instead of the garbage reduces waste going to the landfill and the greenhouse gases it produces. Your food scraps will be converted into valuable compost and nutrient-rich soil for use in the region.

Q What should I do if I already have a backyard composter?

Keep using it! This is still the best way to compost since it reduces collection costs and saves energy. Having a green cart solves the problem of what to do with meat, cooked food and dairy products. Meat, bones, dairy, and cooked food should not go to backyard composters as they create odour and attract pests.

Q How do I store my food scraps in the house?

Each home will be provided with a small kitchen catcher, to collect food scraps at mealtimes. These kitchen catchers can be emptied into the green carts throughout the week.

Q How can I avoid odours and pests in my kitchen container?

Follow these simple steps to prevent odours and pests in your kitchen container:

- Sprinkle it with baking soda
- Line container with newspaper or a paper bag (DO NOT use plastic)
- Wrap food scraps in newspaper or place in a paper bag
- Empty it out and wash it regularly
- Keep the lid on when not in use

Q How do I know when my green cart will be collected?

A collection schedule will be provided in your cart information package. An online collection calendar will also be available at www.strathmore.ca.

Q What size cart will I receive?

Single family homes and duplexes will receive a 120L green cart.

Q How can I keep my green cart clean?

To keep your green cart free of odour and pests:

- Line the bottom with newspaper
- Layer food scraps under yard trimmings
- Sprinkle with baking soda or powdered garden lime
- Store cart in the shade, or inside the garage
- Put your cart out every week for collection, even if you don't have many scraps
- Wash your cart regularly
- Keep the cart lid closed at all times

Q Where should I put my green cart to be collected?

Place your green cart **1 metre** away from your black cart, in your regular collection location. Have your cart in place by 7 am on collection day. Spacing requirements around the cart are the same as for the black cart. Please remember to remove your cart from the collection point at the end of the day.

Q What if my cart isn't full?

You don't need to have a full green cart for it to be collected. Make sure to put out your cart weekly, even if you have just a few food scraps.

Q Why did I miss a weekly cart collection?

There might be a few reasons your green cart wasn't emptied:

- Your cart contained plastics or other unaccepted items
- You put your cart out on the wrong day
- Your cart was not out by 7:00 a.m.
- The lid on your cart was not shut

Q What happens to the carts if I move?

The carts are owned by the Town of Strathmore and are linked to the property address. If you move, leave your carts for the next resident.

Q Will the organics program increase the utility fee on my property tax bill?

No. There will be no increase on your utility bill to cover the cost of the green cart organics program.